The Humble

PETITION

OF THE

MINISTERS

Of the Counties of *Suffolke* and *Essex*,

Concerning

Church-Government.

Presented to the Right Honourable the House of Peers on Fryday, *May* 29. 1646.

With their Answer thereunto.

Die Veneris 29 *Maii*, 1646.

Ordered by the Lords Assembled in Parliament, That this Petition and Answer be forthwith Printed and published.

Jo. Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

LONDON:
Printed for *Iohn Wright* at the Kings Head in the Old Bayley. 1 June 1646.

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To the Right Honourable the House of Lords now Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

The Humble Petition of the Ministers of *Suffolk* and *Essex*.

Sheweth,

THat your solemne League and Covenant, your great and glorious Victories, the expectation of the Reformed Churches beyond the Seas, the longing desires of our Brethren of Scotland, the humble Petitions of the Reverend Assembly, and the great City of this Kingdome, the pressing miseries of the Orthodox and well-affected Ministers and People in the Country, cry aloud to your Honours for a setling of Church-Government according to the Word. From the want of this it is, Right Honourable, that the name of the most High God is blasphemed, his precious truths corrupted, his Word despised, his Ministers discouraged, his Ordinances vilified. Hence it is, that Schisme, Heresie, Ignorance, Prophanenesse, and Atheisme, flow in upon us, Seducers multiply, grow daring and insolent, pernicious Books poyson many souls, piety and learning decay apace, very many Congregations ly waste with-

out Pastours, the Sacrament of Baptisme by many neglected, and by many re-iterated, the Lords Supper generally dis-used or exceedingly prophaned, confusion and ruine threatning us in all our Quarters.

In all humility therefore acknowledging your unwearied labours for the publique good, your successefull endeavours for saving this Kingdom, your hopefull beginnings of a blessed Reformation; we out of conscience and in tender regard to the glory of God, and the salvation of our people, beseech your Honours, That a forme of Church-Government, according to the Word of God, and the example of the best Reformed Churches, may with all possible speed be perfected, & confirmed by your civill sanction; that Schismatieks, Hereticks, seducing Teachers, and soul-subverting Books, be effectually suppressed; That further care may be had of Ordination for a supply of able and Orthodox Ministers, and all good meanes used to make up the sad breaches in this our Sion. *So shall the Church of God be setled, your hands strengthned, the sacred Covenant performed, our feares prevented, the Judgements of God diverted.*

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

For the County of Suffolke.

Matth. Laurence.	John Wallace.	Matth. Brownrigge.
Robert Stansbye.	Thomas Warren of Witnesham.	John Cooper.
Thomas Cave.		Richard Jennings.
Isaac Basil.	Robert Steffe.	John Wilkinson.
John Fuellr.	Robert Cade.	Thomas Warren of Layham.
Nathaniel Smart.	William Austen.	
William Fincham.	Thomas Richer.	John Swaine. Sen.
Christop. Glascock.	William Redgrave.	William Douglas.

Hugh

Hugh Driver.
Barthol. Golding.
Henry Yonger.
Nicholas Leverton.
Barthol. Allerton.
John Cary.
William Browne.
Samuel Hudſon.
Robert Wicks.
Bezaleel Carter.
Robert Mead.
John Goldſon.
John Mayer.
John Trebicke.
Henry Bridon.
Samuel Spring. Jun.
John Long.
Samuel Samwayes.
John Rewſe.
John Witham.
Spencer Fell.
John Thurleby.
Samuel Knapp.
Benjamin Fairfax.
Richard Neach.
James Votier.
John Clarke.
William Cockram.
William Hodskins.
George Cock.
Thomas Fowle.
Patrick Lindſay.
Richard Olmſted.
Thomas Nuttall.
William Dowell.
Richard Davis.
Samuel Peirce.
George Germy.
Henry Searle.

Thomas Batho.
George Turnbull.
Thomas Sotheby
Samuel Spring, Sen.
Mathias Candler.
Jer. Cateline, Sen.
John Swaine, Jun.
Henry Cowper.
Seth Etcocks.
Jer. Catiline, Jun.
Richard Rogers.
John Whiting.
Edward Braſyer.
John Cockſedge.
John Dodds.
Abraham Chaplin.
Richard Ward.
John Forgon.
Iſaac Wilham.
John Marleton.
Rob. Andrews, Sen.
Rob. Andrews, Jun.
Thomas Peake.
James Bacon.
Thomas Grunby.
Robert Harris.
Edward Willan.
Chriſto. Wragge.
William Bedell.
Nathaniel Cotton.
Andrew Chaplin.
Zachary Catlin.
John Powell.
John Dodd.
Robert Devereux.
Daniel Sutton.
Abraham Wright.
John Owen.
William Cropton.

Joſhua Randall.
William Pickering.
Samuel Bordman.
Thomas Crosby.
Paul Rainham.
Charles Harriſon.
John Alexander.
Joſeph Ward.
Richard Golty.
Sam. Faireclough.
Richard Blackberie.
Thomas Turnill.
Iohn Allot.
Anth. Thompſon.
Edward Eyres.
Robert Cooke.
Chriſtopher Burrell.
Iohn Weſtley.
Iohn Pindar.
Iohn Cradock.
Peter Sainthill.
Edward Voice.
Robert Underwood
Iohn Wall.
Simon Iackſon.
Anthony Fenton.
Theoph. Luddinton.
Ambroſ. Salmbury.
Rich. Chamberlin.
Philip Iacob.
George Speed.
Robert Howlet.
Richard Hunne.
Iohn Syer.
Iohn Burrough.
Clement Raye.
Robert Stafford.
Iohn Froſt.
Samuel Bradſtreet.

Chriſtopher

Chriſtopher Peart.
Tho. Rewſe.
George Nelſon.
Thomas Warren of Polſted.
John Brunning.
William Munning.
John Prat.
Robert Aſty.
John Weld.
Iſaac Harriſon.
Samuel Maile.
Tho. Walker.
John Drake.
John Hale.
William Chapman.
Robert Webbe.
Thomas Curtis.
Samuel Sutton.
Richard Faucet.
Robert Sayer.
John Prat.
Joſeph Herdſon.
Anthony Barthelet.
John Aſhburne.

For the County of Eſſex.

JOhn Morſe.
John Ferrar.
Tho. Holmſted.
Joſeph Downing.
Alexander Pigot.
Robert Harmer.
Robert Mercer.
Timothy Rogers.
Samuel Rogers.
John White.
Gamaliel Carr. jun.
John Okye.
George Smith.
William Cunninghame.
Thomas Beard.
John Ludgater.
Tho. Turner.
John Simpſon.
Nath. Bugg.
Tho. Lawſon.
John Lorkin.
Thomas Payne.
John Hubbert.
Samuel Hoard.
John Ferriby.
Matth. Elliſton.
Hugh Glover.
John Powell.
William Hales.
Phil. Sanders.
Edward Bentall.
Robert Powell.
John Lavender.
Henry Havers.
Francis Hill.
George Bownd.
Elias Pledger.
Conſtant Jeſſop.
John Poole.
John Wilſon.
Robert White.
Patrick Weems.
John Benſon.
Ralph Wharton.
Edward Ford.
Nich. Folgingham.
Tho. Lathum.
Will. Web.
Samuel Collins.
Ralph Hilles.
John Paynell.
Edmund Brewer.
I. Gent.
John Ovend.
Wil. Blackmore.
Thomas Watſon.
John Wood.
John Norton.
Thomas Dearſly.
James Sutton.
Francis Gisbrough.
Edward Thomas.
John Firmyn.
R. Moſeley.
Thomas Templer.
Daniel Weld.
Iſrael Heuet.
John Symſon.
Will. Guthrie.
Aug. Hill.
John Andrewes.
Anthony Sammes:
Thomas Lawes.
Thomas Nicholſon.

William

William Puckley.
Nathan. Pewitton.
William Danes.
Iohn Shunman.
Will. Tabor.
Robert Brooke.
Tho. Moody.
Iohn Reddrich.
Isaac Seredge.
James Maldon.
Iohn Wyllys.
Nichol. North.
Will. How.
Nath. Ranew.
Samuel Smith.
Nehemiah Homes.
Christopher Wragg.
Francis Chaundler.
Nehemiah Long.
Iohn Peachie.
Iohn Elborowe.
Dan. Lathum.

Will. Aiscough.
Samuel Wharton.
Iohn Smith.
Will. Willis.
Iohn Argor.
Thomas Pecke.
Iohn Church.
Tho. Orsby.
Edward Wichy.
Richard Carnall.
Tho. Silverwood.
Marmaduke Iames.
Samuel Bridge.
Edward Clyffe.
Ben. Wynington.
Samuel Smith.
Hierom Iones.
Rich. Barrington
Anthony Whiting.
Robert Cite.
William Pipple.
Iohn Malden.

Henry Steinmer.
Step. Pipple.
Iohn Edes.
Nath. Carr.
Thomas Salter.
Robert Peartree.
George Wilkinson.
George Catony.
Edward Dowet.
Nicholas Beard.
Abraham Caley.
Iohn Augur.
If. Sutcliffe.
Will. Wells.
Iames Nonis.
Samuel Purchas.
Iohn Beale.
Timothy Woodcoffe.
Samuel Ainsworth.
Robert Rogers.
Sam. Nowell.

The Lords Answer to the said Petition.

THe Lords are glad to finde this zeale and care in the Ministery of the Counties of Suffolk *and* Essex, *for the preventing the further increase of Heresie and Prophanenesse, and for the promoting a growth in the power of godlinesse. The Lords desire you to continue still in your endeavours therein, and they will not be wanting to give you all encouragement. They have commanded me to give you thanks for your expressions of your good affections to the Parliament and this Cause, and doe assure you*

that

that they will improve their power for the ſuppreſſing of Error, Hereſie, ſeducing Teachers, and ſoule-ſubverting books, and likewiſe for the ſetling of Church Goverment according to the Word of God, and the example of the beſt reformed Churches, to which they hold themſelves obliged by their ſolemne League and Covenant, & that their Lordſhips have appointed that their Petition with this Anſwer ſhall be printed and publiſhed. John Brown Cler. Parliamentorum.

The Anſwer of the Houſe of Commons to the Miniſters Petition.

Die Mercurii 27. Maii. 1646.

THe Houſe being informed that divers Miniſters of the County of Suffolke *and* Eſſex *were at the doore, they were called in, and preſented to the Houſe a Petition, intituled,* The humble Petition of the Miniſters of *Suffolke* and *Eſſex, the which was read.*

The Miniſters were againe called in, and Mr. Speaker by command of the Houſe acquainted them, That moſt of the particular deſires of their Petition are now under conſideration, and they hope will be brought to a ſettlement ſpeedily: That the Houſe is very ſenſible, that through ſome intervening obſtructions the Church Government hath not been ſo fully ſetled as they deſire, and that they give them thankes for their good affections, and deſire them to put all Ordinances in execution concerning Church Government as lye within their power. H. Elſynge Cler. Parl. D. Com.

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FINIS.

THE HUMBLE

Acknowledgement,

PETITION

OF DIVERS INHABITANTS,

IN, AND ABOUT THE

CITIE OF *LONDON.*

Presented to the Honourable the

COMMONS of *ENGLAND*

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

the second of *June.* 1646.

Whereunto is added,

The ANSWER returned by the

said Honorable House of *COMMONS.*

Published by Authoritie.

LONDON,

Printed by *M. S.* for *Henry Overton*, in *Popes*-head-Alley. 1646.